

Message Text

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DRAFTED BY ARA:WGBOWDLER:MMG

APPROVED BY S:HAKISSINGER

S/S - MR. SPRINGSTEEN

ARA/APU:FVORTIZ

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY MONTEVIDEO PRIORITY

INFO AMEMBASSY PANAMA PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 028274

EXDIS

E.O. 11652:GDS

TAGS: PFOR, MFM, UY

SUBJECT: REPLY TO LETTER FROM FOREIGN MINISTER BLANCO

REF.: MONTEVIDEO 23; MONTEVIDEO 359

PANAMA FOR ASSISTANT SECRETARY ROGERS

PLEASE DELIVER SOONEST FOLLOWING MESSAGE FROM SECRETARY
KISSINGER TO FOREIGN MINISTER BLANCO:

QUOTE. DEAR MR. MINISTER: THIS LETTER HAS THE DOUBLE
PURPOSE OF THANKING YOU FOR YOUR THOUGHTFUL RESPONSE TO
MY REQUEST FOR VIEWS ON THE BUENOS AIRES MEETING OF
FOREIGN MINISTERS AND TO EXPLAIN THE DECISION NOT TO
PARTICIPATE IN THE MONTEVIDEO MEETING OF THE WORKING
GROUP ON SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY.

WHEN I WROTE YOU LAST DECEMBER ABOUT THE BUENOS AIRES MEET-
ING, I HAD HIGH HOPES THAT WE COULD MOVE THE NEW DIALOGUE
FROM AN INITIAL DEFINITION OF INTENTIONS TO ACTION ON SPE-
CIFIC ISSUES. YOUR LETTER OF JANUARY 2 CONFIRMED THAT YOU
SHARED THIS POINT OF VIEW. THE AREAS YOU DESCRIBED AS OF-
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FERING OPPORTUNITIES FOR ACHIEVING CONCRETE RESULTS CLOSELY

PARALLEL MY OWN THINKING. I FOUND YOUR ANALYSIS OF THE PROBLEMS RAISED BY THE PARTICIPATION OF CUBA AT BUENOS AIRES PARTICULARLY INTERESTING. I HAD ALSO COME TO THE CONCLUSION THAT IT WOULD BE INADVISABLE TO INVITE CUBA TO THE MEETING,

ALTHOUGH, LIKE YOU, I WAS PREPARED DURING THE MEETING TO EXCHANGE VIEWS ON HOW THE CUBAN SANCTIONS QUESTION MIGHT BE HANDLED.

I REGRET THAT IN RECENT DAYS ISSUES WHICH ARE THE PROPER SUBJECT FOR DISCUSSION AT BUENOS AIRES HAVE BEEN USED TO JUSTIFY SUSPENSION OF THE DIALOGUE ITSELF. I KNOW THAT THIS WAS NOT YOUR POSITION AND YOU HAVE PUBLICLY STATED THAT YOU WERE NOT IN AGREEMENT WITH THE DECISION TO POSTPONE.

THIS BRINGS ME TO THE MEETINGS OF THE WORKING GROUPS WHICH WERE TO CONVEY IN MONTEVIDEO AND WASHINGTON THIS MONTH. THE BASIS ON WHICH THE MEETING OF FOREIGN MINISTERS WAS POSTPONED CAUSED ME TO CONCLUDE THAT AT THE PRESENT MOMENT THE ATMOSPHERE IS NOT CONDUCTIVE TO CONSTRUCTIVE DISCUSSION IN EITHER WORKING GROUP. UNDER THESE CIRCUMSTANCES I THOUGHT IT PREFERABLE THAT THE UNITED STATES SUSPEND ITS PARTICIPATION IN THESE MEETINGS UNTIL THE FUTURE OF THE NEW DIALOGUE IS CLARIFIED.

I REGRET THAT THE DECISION TO SUSPEND THE BUENOS AIRES MEETING CAME SO CLOSE TO THE OPENING OF THE SECOND SESSION OF THE WORKING GROUP ON SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY THAT IT DID NOT PERMIT ADEQUATE ADVANCE CONSULTATION AMONG THE GOVERNMENTS ON WHETHER TO PROCEED WITH THE MEETING. OUR FAILURE TO SEND A DELEGATION WAS IN NO WAY DIRECTED AGAINST URUGUAY, WHICH HAS WORKED SO ENTHUSIASTICALLY AND CONSTRUCTIVELY TO MAKE THE NEW DIALOGUE A SUCCESS.

FROM YOUR LETTER AND YOUR VIEWS AS COMMUNICATED TO ME BY AMBASSADOR SIRACUSA I KNOW HOW MUCH THOUGHT YOU HAVE GIVEN TO THE NATURE OF THE DIALOGUE AND THE DIRECTION IT SHOULD TAKE. WE APPRECIATED YOUR SENDING DR. JORGE
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ALVAREZ TO WASHINGTON TO CONSULT WITH US ON THE MONTEVIDEO MEETING PRIOR TO THESE DEVELOPMENTS. I SHARE YOUR DISAPPOINTMENT IN WHAT HAS OCCURRED. I HOPE THAT WITH THE CONSTRUCTIVE LEADERSHIP OF PERSONS SUCH AS YOU, WE CAN FIND A WAY TO RESUME THE INFORMAL AND FRANK DISCUSSIONS WHICH I REGARD AS ESSENTIAL TO DEVELOPING A STRENGTHENED HEMISPHERE RELATIONSHIP.

WARM REGARDS, HENRY A. KISSINGER. UNQUOTE. KISSINGER

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